

On page 21, line 11, after "micrometers" insert --(μm)--;

On page 21, line 14, after "micrometers" insert --(μm)--;

On page 25, line 6, delete "23-25" and insert --22-23--; and

On page 25, line 37, delete " μm " and insert -- μM --.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel non-elected Claims 12-36, without prejudice.

Please amend Claim 1 and 44 as follows:

--1 (Amended). A flexible composite membrane comprising a selected quantity of a polymeric material [and] blended with a selected quantity of a particulate material, said membrane comprising:

a non-fiberized polymeric matrix wherein said particulate is substantially physically immobilized within said polymeric matrix[;] and

[a selectively permeable skin on] wherein the outer surface of said membrane comprises a selectively permeable skin.--

--44 (Amended). A flexible composite sheet membrane with an interior portion between two outer surfaces, said membrane comprising a selected quantity of a polymeric material blended with a selected quantity of a particulate material wherein the quantity of said particulate material comprises greater than 50%, by weight,

of the blend[, said membrane further comprising:

a non-fiberized polymeric matrix] wherein said particulate is substantially immobilized and non-uniformly dispersed [within said matrix wherein in] across said membrane, whereby each of said outer surfaces of said membrane comprises a selectively permeable skin over said membrane interior portion.--

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action of March 15, 2000, for the above-identified patent application.

In that Office Action, Claims 1-5, 7-8, 10-37, 40-41, and 43 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,914,039 to Mahendran.

Claims 1-8, 10-11, 37, 40 and 43-45 were rejected under 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,957,957 to McAllister et al.

Claims 1-8, 10-11, 37, 40-41 and 44-45 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,728,432 to Sugiyama et al.

Claims 1-6, 40-42 and 44 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,660,903 to Anderson et al.

Claim 42 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugiyama et al. or McAllister et al.